

REMARKS

Claims 2-24 are pending. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 16-24 are new. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

The claims were said to be indefinite for various reasons given on pages 2-5 of the office action. Claim 1 has been canceled and has been replaced by new claim 17. The claims have been amended, or rewritten in the case of claim 1, to avoid the potential for indefiniteness set forth by the examiner. The claims are considered to be fully definite, and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,102,476 to May *et al.* (hereafter, May). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

May is directed to an easy chair or recliner that includes the components of a personal computer. In particular, a hollow armrest serves as the computer case and includes the circuit boards, disk drives and power supply. Inputs and drive bays for the computer are also provided in the armrest as are typically found in a tower or case of a personal computer. The personal computer appears to be a general purpose computer and is not provided for any purposes specific to the chair.

Claim 17, which has replaced claim 1, is directed to a vehicle seat. May fails to disclose or suggest a vehicle seat. The chair disclosed in May is adapted for use at home or in an office but is not adapted to the use in a vehicle.

In addition, claim 17 includes a data storage device storing relevant data, where the relevant data is data that represents at least one of service life of the seat, certification of the seat, service life of the seat component, and certification of the seat component. Therefore, the data storage device of the present invention is specifically adapted to store data relevant to the seat to which it is attached. There is no disclosure or suggestion in May concerning a data storage device storing data specific to the chair in which the computing system is contained. The computing system in the chair of May is a general purpose personal computer. Although the components are arranged or modified to fit within the physical confines of the chair, the computer itself is not adapted to include information relevant to the service or certification of the chair or the components of the chair.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 depend directly or indirectly on claim 17 and include additional recitations that further define the present invention over May.

In particular, claim 8 recites that the data storage device comprises a transponder and that data are readable upon appropriate stimulation of the transponder. There is no disclosure or suggestion in May concerning the configuration of a data storage device as a transponder, and there is no need for the use of a transponder in the personal computer and chair of May.

With regard to claim 9, May fails to disclose that energy required for the operation of the data storage device is retrieved from the external reading device. The required power in May is supplied by the internal power supply of the personal computer.

With regard to claim 10, May fails to teach or disclose a unit for positioning the external reading device into a specifiable position in relation to the data storage device. May does not discuss an external reading device and therefore fails to disclose structure, i.e., the unit, for positioning an external reading device relative to a data storage device. Therefore, May fails to disclose all of the elements of these claims, and the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over May in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,490,710 to Dearing *et al.* (hereafter, Dearing). The applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn for the following reasons.

Claim 6 depends on claim 17 and is considered to be patentable at least for the reasons given above. Further, Dearing fails to supply what is missing in May.

Dearing was relied on to show a wireless means for effecting the data transmission between the data storage device and the reading device. The wireless means of Dearing is a wireless mouse. This rejection is misplaced and should be withdrawn for the reasons that follow.

Dearing is directed to a swing arm chair that includes a writing tablet attached to one armrest. A mouse pad is provided in the writing tablet so that a person in the chair can operate a wireless mouse on the mouse pad. As with May, Dearing is not directed to a vehicle seat, but to a chair arranged for use in the home or office. In fact, the chair of Dearing is provided with wheels. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not consider the chair of Dearing when contemplating a vehicle seat. The chair of Dearing is even less suitable for use in a vehicle than the chair of May.

In addition, as with May, Dearing fails to teach or disclose the data storage device of claim 17. Therefore, the combination of May and Dearing fails to include all of the elements of the present invention as recited in claim 6, which depends on claim 17, and the applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 12 was said to be allowable if written in independent form and to overcome the rejection under section 112. Claim 12 has been written in independent form. However, the wording added to claim 12 has been changed for clarification and to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Therefore, claim 12 is considered to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 13-15 were also said to be allowable if written in independent form and to overcome the indefiniteness rejection. Claims 13-15 depend on claim 12 and are considered to be in condition for allowance based at least on their dependency.

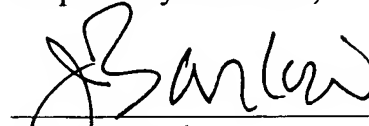
Claims 16 and 18-24 depend, directly or indirectly, on one of the independent claims discussed above. Therefore, claims 16 and 18-24 are considered to be patentable at least for the reasons given above.

In particular, claim 23 recites that the vehicle seat is an aircraft passenger seat. With the claimed invention, information concerning a seat or a seat component among a set of many seats can be retrieved in a rapid and efficient way. This is particularly advantageous with aircraft because of the high number of seats with which an aircraft cabin is typically equipped.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions arise, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

If there are any problems with the payment of fees, please charge any underpayments and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Barlow", written over a horizontal line.

James E. Barlow
Reg. No. 32,377

Posz Law Group, PLC
12040 South Lakes Drive, Suite 101
Reston, VA 20191
Phone 703-707-9110
Fax 703-707-9112
Customer No. 23400